

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

The Alton Police Department is a full-time twenty-four and seven public agency serving the Community of Alton. We presently employ eleven full-time sworn officers and five part-time officers. The Department is organized into two Divisions; Patrol and Support Services. Seven officers are assigned to patrol duties along with the five part-time officers. The Patrol Division is lead by Lt. Correia and Sergeant Heath. Support Services is lead by Captain Anderson. Support Services Division is made up of two Bureaus; Records and Special Services. Special Services is supervised by Detective Nichols. The Special Services is responsible for the School Resource Officer Program, Court Prosecution and Victim Advocacy, Juvenile Services, and Criminal Investigations. The Records Bureau is supervised by Susan Roberts. The Records Bureau administers the Department's Computer System, Communications Dispatch Center, and provides customer service assistance to the Citizenry and other governmental agencies. The Police Department also has the responsibility for answering animal complaints. The Animal Control Officer is a part-time on-call position, which limits the type of services being provided, so each complaint is evaluated on an individual basis in order to determine whether or not we can provide adequately the service being requested.

So in all looking at the Year 2004, what happened? From a Statistical point the Police Department was kept busy all year round with an over-all 9 % increase in Calls for Service. Presently, using Federal Staffing Guidelines for police departments (the recommended ratio being 1 officer assigned to field duties per 500 population) the Alton Police Department's ratio is approximately 1 officer for every 622 people in the population. This is based on the recent home permits issued in years past placing the estimated population of Alton's year round population between 5,600 and 6,000 people. These numbers obviously exclude the daytime business travelers, Prospect Mountain School daytime population and services, and the summer's increased population and services.

Other developments, We had two full-time police officers resign and move on. Detective Glenna Roberts resigned and took a position with the Carol County Sheriff's Department, while Corporal Vetanze resigned to take a position with the State of New Hampshire's Liquor Enforcement Bureau. Both of these police officers were outstanding in their contributions to both the Town of Alton and the police department. They will be surely missed and we wish them well in their professional endeavors. Officers Kurt Driscoll and Eric Borge were just recently hired to fill these new openings. Eric Borge before joining Alton was employed by the State of New Hampshire's Gaming Bureau. He has been a certified police officer for 5 years and is retired from the U.S Coast Guard. Kurt Driscoll has a background in firefighting and industrial security field. He has been a full-time police officer for two years and previously worked for the Newington NH Police Department.

In short, the Alton Police Department as one of its goals for 2005 plans to increase the effectiveness of the Traffic Enforcement Programs by adding additional hours and manpower to Directed Patrols, DWI Enhancement Patrols and Anti-Aggressive Driving Surveillance Patrols. Another area of service we plan on trying to improve is the enforcement of Cross Walk violations on Main Street and the Bay Area. We have requested in the FY 2005 Budget sufficient funds to purchase the Pedestrian Cross Walk Signs, and as a result of meeting this line item funding, we intend on assigning officers to watch and enforce any flagrant violations witnessed. Our intent here at the Alton Police Department is to remind you that we are your hired employees, and as such, we serve the Community as a whole for the betterment of improving our way of life here in Alton. I would ask that if any of you have any constructive suggestions or recommendations for improvement to please contact us at our E-mail address: Altonpd@Metrocast.net I want to thank all of you once again for your support.